

C4 Operations in the Deployed Environment
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18 October 2002

The balloon goes up. You have been notified that you will deploy in support of this military operation. You are going to a bare base. You know that communication is key to your chapel team. What are your needs? Who will be your resource person in the deployed location? How will you respond to the communications challenges that you will encounter? Will you, the chaplain, the chaplain assistant, be ready to minister to your airmen effectively in this deployed setting?

These are just some of the issues you will need to anticipate as you serve in the deployed environment. And key to our effectiveness is our use of communication resources.

The objective for this lesson is to understand C4 Operations in a deployed environment and what this means for the Chaplain Service. To do this, we will look at the following:

- What language are they speaking anyway?
- What are the basics of C4 Operations in the deployed setting?
- What do Chaplains/Chaplain Assistants need to know about C4 Operations?
- How do we prepare at our home base?

MP1: First of all, “What language are they speaking anyway?”

When you enter the communications arena, be prepared to learn a new language. Understanding the language will help you to communicate to your Comm personnel what it is you need to operate effectively in the deployed setting.

Let's start with some basic terminology:

C4 Systems are those systems and functions that have to do with Command, Control, Communication and Computer systems. It is
COMSEC
INFOSEC
OPSEC

Some other terminology/equipment that is helpful to know includes:

LMR (show example)
LAN
SIPRnet
NIPRnet
STU (show example)
STE (show example)
SCIF
Classification of Information and Documents
Security Clearances

MP2: What are the basics of C4 Operations in the deployed setting?

Because of the nature of our Expeditionary Air Force, C4 systems need to be compact and highly mobile. Ideally, your communication personnel, along with their palletized equipment, will be among the first chucks to arrive at the AOR. They will begin their set-up immediately. For our purposes, we need to know what it is these Comm folks provide. Some of the systems include:

Voice Communication: LMRs (radios) and telephones, including STUs and STEs and cellular telephone.

Network Systems: You can expect the communication personnel to drop a LAN line within the first 24-48 hours after arrival in the AOR. They will provide you with email, access to the Internet, as well as access to STU/STE and the SIPRnet for classified message traffic.

Other services provided by Comm include: Combat Camera, Cable Television, the postal detachment, and assistance with audio-visual needs.

Other services that impact the mission of which you should be aware include:

Air Traffic Control Service, Precision approach Radar, Airport Surveillance Radar, mobile Control Tower, Ground to Air communications. This is all accomplished through the mobile systems comprised of equipment, boxes and wires, that Comm brings with them to the deployed site. Be aware that mobile satellite will provide you with your voice/computer communication systems.

As you visit your Comm folks during regular chaplain visitations, ask your Comm folks about their equipment and capabilities.

MP2.a. Who is your point of contact in the AOR for your Comm needs?

The Base Communications Focal Point (CFP) will be your POC within the Deployed Communications Chain of Command. This person may be an officer or Senior NCO whose basic roles include:

- Being responsible for communications and informant systems on a particular base.
- Directs maintenance on equipment
- Is the single PC for all communications and information systems to the deployed Wing Commander
- Reports directly to Air Force Systems Control within their Chain of Command.

I would recommend that you identify the CFP at your deployed location and keep in regular contact throughout the deployment.

MP2.b. What do the communications experts need from you?

- Prior to your deployment, it is essential that you determine what your communication needs will be in the AOR. Communication during the pre-deployment phase and at the deployed location are essential. I will say more about this later in this lesson
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You will find that some deliberate pre-deployment planning will help you to avoid unnecessary scrambling and organizing after your arrive in the AOR. Stop the CD and talk about experiences you have had with communications systems on past deployments.

MP3: What do Chaplains/Chaplain Assistants need to know about C4 Operations?

When you first touch down in your deployed location, some of your immediate concerns will be for:

Voice Communications – both locally and to folks back home
Computer Needs and Support
Special Chaplain Issues
Audio Visual Needs – for worship and MWR.

With sound pre-deployment planning, most of your needs will be met in a very timely manner, but let's take a look at these areas:

1. Voice Communications: Until you get telephone service, how will you communicate with one another and with other members of your deployed unit? Will you have cell phones issued at the site? How will the command post reach you in the event of an emergency? To it essential that you establish a communications procedure immediately.

A word about OPSEC: What can you talk about on non-secure telephone lines? On the NIPRnet? Be sure that you know what the OPSEC policies are at your deployed location. You may inadvertently send classified information over non-secure lines in the name of pastoral care. Remember not to give names, units, numbers, location information unless you are using the secure telephone unit or the SIPRnet.

2. Computer/Internet Needs: If you are going to a location where the current is not 110/60, did you bring/acquire a transformer? Do you have adaptors for the plugs? A 220 surge protector? Is there a generator for our electrical needs? Remember that the local electrical supply in the AOR may be highly unpredictable and subject to power surges.

3. Special Chaplain Issues: Some other issues need to be addressed here concerning Internet use. Have you briefed the commander and CFP on your need to surf the net for religious material? Be aware that some troops will search unauthorized sites, including pornography sites, and they will be monitored and liable for disciplinary action in the AOR.

How will you communicate with your joint partners? Can your computer talk to theirs? Or will you need to go searching for them for a face-to-face conversation? Establish a system whereby you will be able to communicate with them quickly and effectively! Otherwise, you will waste valuable time just trying to keep in touch!

4. Audio-Visual Needs: Be sure that your laptop has a DVD drive. Take a DVD library with you for religious and MWR purposes. Hook up with the MWR folks to have access to their projector systems, large-screen television, to show religious and entertainment DVDs.

You may need a sound system for your worship services. Seek out the ground radio personnel who can help you set up and maintain your audio system.

MP 3.a. A word about Security:

It is imperative that you know the INFOSEC/OPSEC policies at your location including:
How do you handle levels of classified material?

What are the security requirements for the STU?

What are the security requirements for using the SIPRnet? For example, you cannot insert a normal disk while on the SIPRnet, because it becomes classified.

Do you know the security procedures for printed material? How do you store material that is classified as “secret”?

Why does the chaplain need access to the SIPRnet? It is critical that you have established during the pre-deployment phase why you need access to the SIPRnet. You will be expected to communicate on a regular basis with higher headquarters, file regular reports, and check on personnel in the AOR. It is important to check the SIPRnet daily for messages and meetings HHQ/HC suspenses in a timely manner. You cannot do this on the SIPRnet, and there is a wealth of information that will assist you to accomplish the mission which is only available on the SIPRnet.

MP4: How do we prepare at our home base?

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 - Plan your Comm needs during the pre-deployment phase. Will you need LMRs before you get telephone service? How many laptop computers will you need? Will you need a DVD.
 - Test and prepare for Comm during your Phase 2 exercises. Invite a Comm troop to a training at the Chapel to teach you how to use LMRs, how a STU/STE operates, etc.
 - Communicate these needs to your Comm folks prior to deployment. IF the communications personnel are from another base, locate them and communicate your needs.
 - Once you arrive in the AOR, follow-up with the deployed CFP.
- Continually evaluate your needs and adjust as necessary.